

MASTER PLAN	for the	Marcy-Holmes Neighborhood	
CHAPTER FIVE: PUBLIC REALM			

Chapter Five: PUBLIC REALM

Goal: Preservation and enhancement of the neighborhood's parks, Mississippi River corridor, green spaces, and boulevards.

Background

The neighborhood's public realm includes all indoor and outdoor public space, including:

- The Mississippi River and riverbanks
- Parks:
 - Elwell, 6th Street & 7th Avenue
 - Holmes, 5th Street & 3rd Avenue
 - Marcy, 7th Street & 11th Avenue
- The Sixth Avenue Gateway, between University Avenue & the river
- Bike paths and trails
- The open space in the I-35W right-of-way
- The community garden at 10th Avenue and 8th Street
- Streets, alleys, sidewalks, boulevards, and boulevard trees, lights and signs
- Marcy School (K-8th grade), 5th Street & 4th Avenue
- Southeast Community Library at 4th Street and 13th Avenue
- Fire Station 11 at 229 SE 6th Street

Neighborhood residents especially value their proximity to the Mississippi River. They are concerned about inadequate sidewalks and roads, the absence of a community center, misuse of neighborhood parks, poor street lighting, and the absence of a public high school. The library is not handicapped accessible.



Parks

Most of Marcy-Holmes' southern boundary is the Mississippi River, from Central to 11th Avenues. This stretch of the river is part of the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (MNRRA), and unit of the National Park Service. The river's amenities in Marcy-Holmes include St. Anthony Falls, the Stone Arch Bridge, part of Minneapolis' Grand Rounds National Scenic Byway,

Hennepin Island, and Father Hennepin Bluffs Park. The neighborhood river frontage also includes the University of Minnesota Steam Plant and the proposed Whitewater Park. A significant portion of the Hennepin Island area is owned by the University of Minnesota and Xcel Energy, and is generally not accessible to the public. Community recreational programs are not provided at Marcy-Holmes' parks, but are available at Van Cleve Park just north of Marcy-Holmes at 901 15th Ave.

Schools

Marcy Open School is the neighborhood's only public school, built adjacent to Holmes Park in 1992. The school's enrollment in fall of 2002 was 608. Its magnet program draws students from the entire city. All children in the Marcy-Holmes neighborhood can be accommodated at Marcy School. The neighborhood also includes four private or alternative



schools: Pease Academy, Second Foundation, Heart of the Earth Survival School, and Community Learning Project, plus a few preschool programs.

Fire and Police Stations

The neighborhood is served by two fire stations: Station 11 in the neighborhood at 229 6th Street SE and Station 19 at 200 Ontario Street, near Oak and Washington. The neighborhood is in the Second Police Precinct. The station is a mile north of Marcy-Holmes at 1911 Central Avenue NE. Police are dispatched to crime complaints as they patrol, not from the precinct station.

Other Community Gathering Spaces

The neighborhood includes eight churches serving Lutheran, Baptist, Catholic, Congregational, Ukrainian Orthodox, Presbyterian and Latter Day Saints denominations. No Name Exhibitions is an art center in the redeveloped Soap Factory building at 110 5th Ave. The office for the Marcy-Holmes Neighborhood Association and its Neighborhood Revitalization Program is located in the University Technology Center, 1313 5th Street. MHNA meetings are held at University Lutheran Church of Hope, 601 13th Ave. The neighborhood's many coffeehouses and restaurants also serve as gathering spaces.



Objectives for the neighborhood's Public Realm

- Parks and Trails
- Recreational Programs
- Community Center
- Street Lights
- Green Space and Trees
- Schools
- Streets and Streetscape Improvements
- Mississippi River

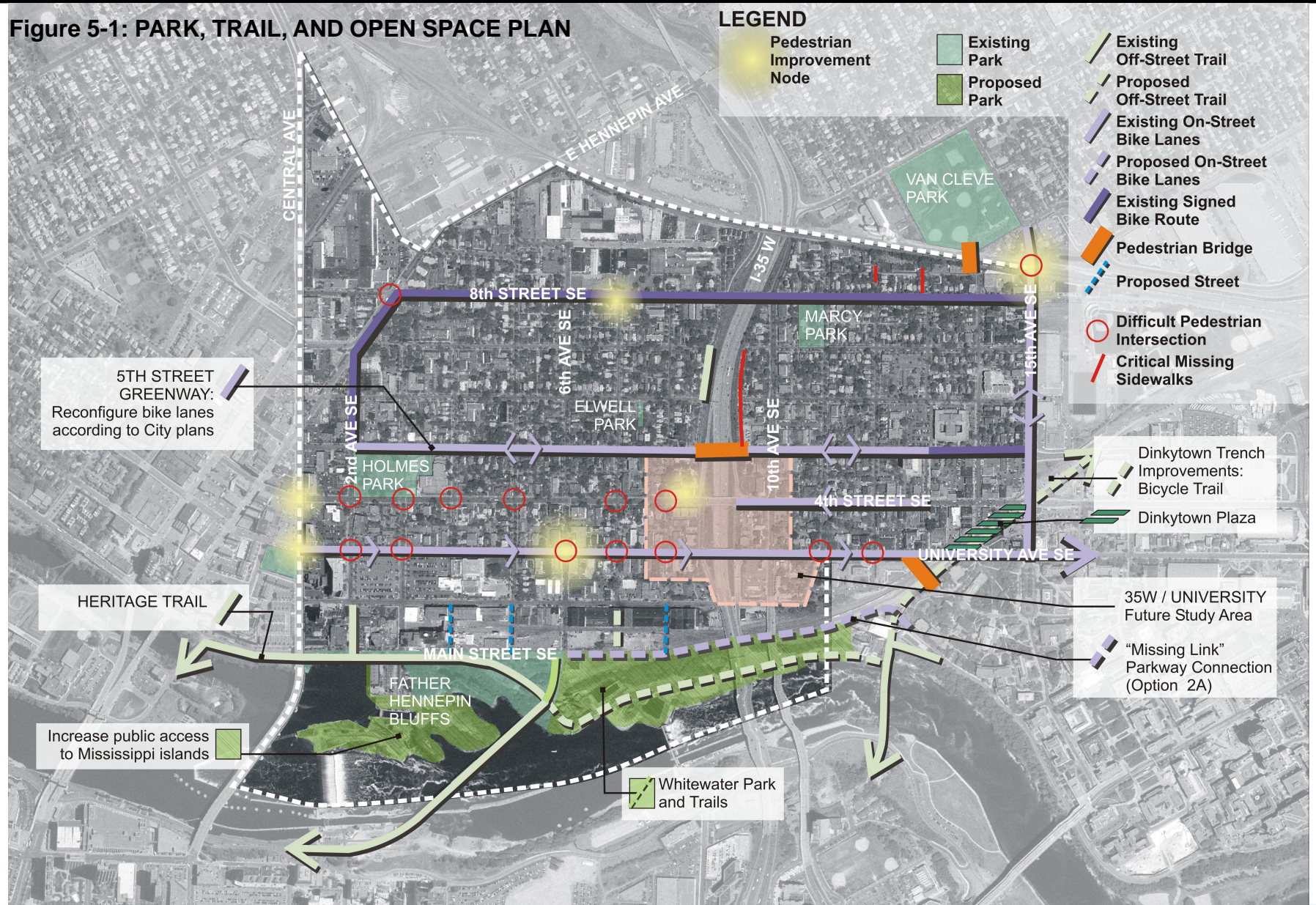
Parks and Trails

Objective: Improvement of the existing parks and greenways and make limited additions to the open space system.

Policies:

1. The neighborhood's two major parks, Holmes and Marcy, should be adequately maintained by the City and controlled so that overuse (turf damage) does not occur.
2. The neighborhood supports the connection of Main Street to the East River Road by way of what is called the "missing link." Option 2A, as agreed to by the City, Park Board, and University of Minnesota should be constructed. This option has received official City approval but has not been programmed yet.
3. A sledding hill in the neighborhood would be desirable.
4. The neighborhood urges the completion of the bike trail through the Dinkytown trench that will eventually connect the Saint Paul Campus, Minneapolis Campus and Stone Arch Bridge.

Figure 5-1: PARK, TRAIL, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN



5. The neighborhood supports the construction of a public plaza over the existing railroad trench that runs through Dinkytown. The elevated plaza should have ramp connections to the bike trails below.

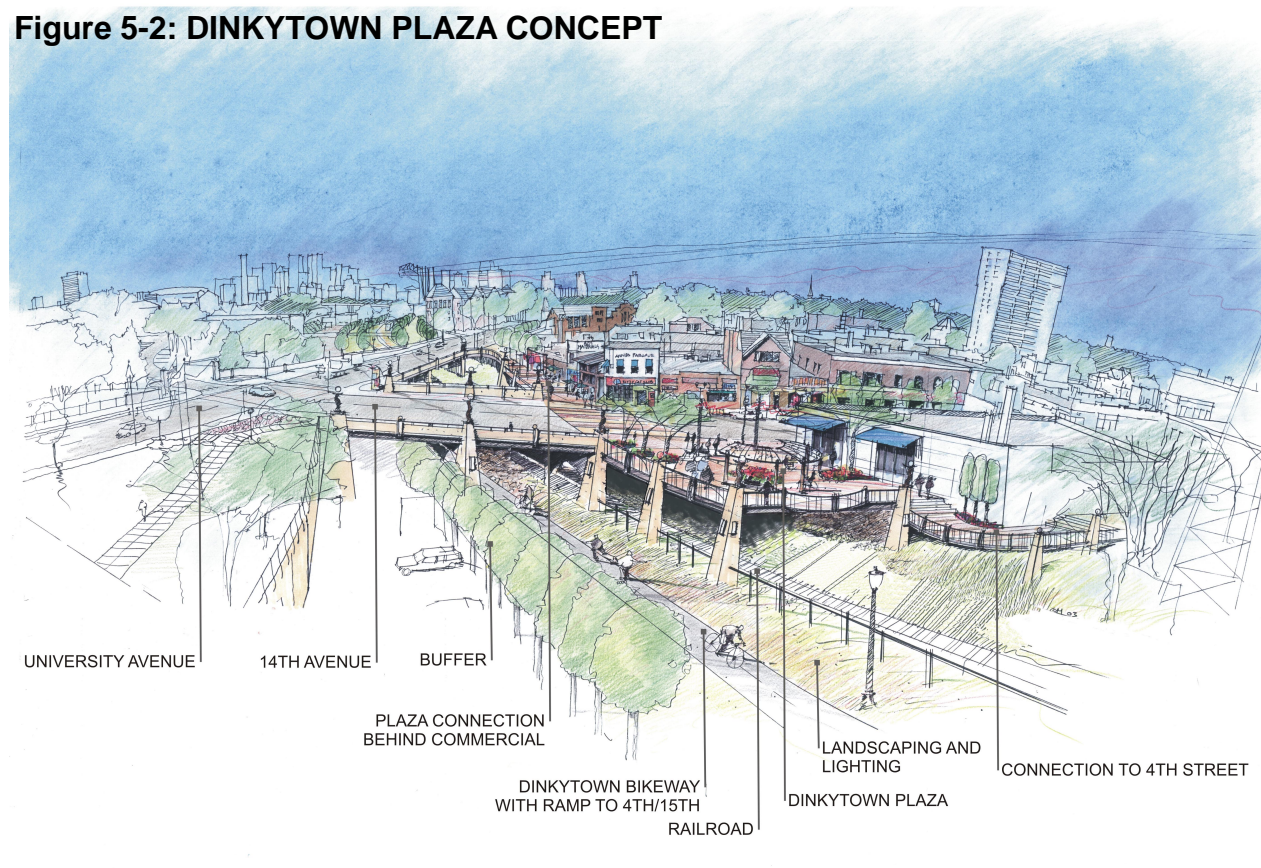
Recreational Programs

Objective: Additional and improved recreational programs to serve the neighborhood population.

Policies:

1. The neighborhood believes that the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) needs to provide more programs for the youth in the neighborhood and on-site staffing of Holmes Park.
2. More MPRB programming should be developed on or adjacent to the river.
3. Marcy School should be made available for community education programs.
4. The neighborhood would like a health club and pool development somewhere in or close to the neighborhood.

Figure 5-2: DINKYTOWN PLAZA CONCEPT



Community Center

Objective: Development of a community center.

Policies:

1. The neighborhood will seek a location for a permanent community center and gathering place.

Street Lights

Objective: Adequate street-lighting.

Policies:

1. The neighborhood encourages more pedestrian scale lighting along University Avenue, 4th Street, the 5th Street Bikeway, and 15th Avenue (especially under the railroad bridge), and near senior citizen buildings.

Green Spaces and Trees

Objective: Preservation of green space and trees.

Policies:

1. The neighborhood will emphasize the beautification of boulevards along University Avenue, 4th Street SE, and 15th Avenue. These streets are major thoroughfares that are highly visible and convey an impression of the neighborhood to visitors and residents. Boulevard upgrades and aesthetic improvements would enhance the image of the neighborhood.

2. Residential street paving plans should emphasize green boulevards and the preservation of existing trees.
3. Residents and property owners will be encouraged to care for their boulevard trees as well as those on private property. The campaign against Dutch Elm disease and other infestations must be continued.
4. The community garden at 8th Street and 10th Avenue will be maintained by the neighborhood.
5. A long-term objective of the neighborhood is covering of the I-35W right-of-way. The neighborhood urges the City and MnDOT to study this alternative even if not for the entire length of the freeway through the neighborhood.

Schools

Objective: Preservation of good schools and education programs and development of better educational facilities and programs.

Policies:

1. The neighborhood supports developing a culture of learning in the neighborhood. See the Social and Cultural Environment chapter for details.
2. The neighborhood prefers that the Minneapolis Board of Education commit to a policy of allowing Marcy School to be open well beyond normal school hours for neighborhood activities if there are non-school funds available to pay for the use of the building.

Streets and Streetscape Improvements

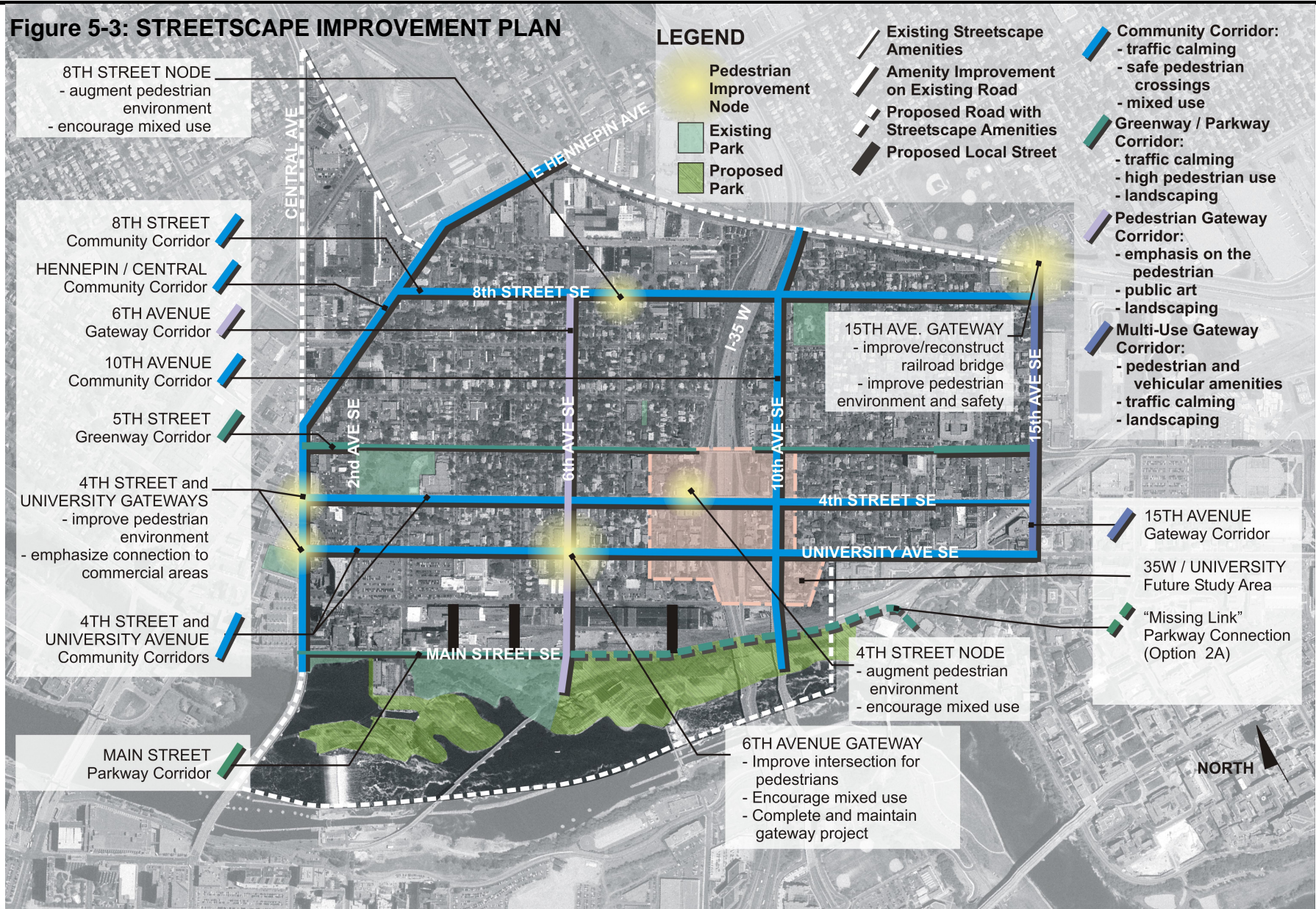
Objective: Improved quality of neighborhood streets, in order to achieve a balance between pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular uses.

Policies:

1. The neighborhood recognizes a hierarchy of streets. This hierarchy will be used to determine appropriate street character and streetscape treatments throughout the neighborhood, and includes the following designations:
 - a. **Community Corridors** have a primarily residential character, intermixed with some commercial and office use. They are to strike a balance between pedestrian and vehicular movement, and can support transit opportunities. The definition of Community Corridors follows the definition set forth in the Minneapolis Plan, but the number of Community Corridors within the neighborhood is expanded.
 - i. Community Corridor designation applies to University Avenue, 4th Street, East Hennepin Avenue, 8th Street, and 10th Avenue.
 - ii. Community Corridors should include pedestrian-oriented amenities such as signalized and calmed intersections, boulevard plantings and street trees, pedestrian-scale lighting, and sidewalks

- b. **Greenway Corridors** are designed for minimal traffic movement and high pedestrian amenity. In addition, they have a more intensively greened character than other neighborhood streets, and they provide immediate access to parks, trails, and bikeways.
 - i. Greenway Corridor designation applies to 5th Street and Main Street, including the “missing link” parkway connection.
 - ii. Greenway Corridors should include planted boulevards and street trees, traffic calming measures such as curb bump-outs or variety in pavement, pedestrian-scale lighting, and sidewalks.
- c. **Pedestrian Gateway Corridors** should serve as connections between Marcy-Holmes and other neighborhoods, and should primarily serve pedestrians.
 - i. Pedestrian Gateway Corridor designation applies to 6th Avenue.
 - ii. Pedestrian Gateway Corridors should include unique neighborhood elements, such as public art, variety in pavement, and other streetscape elements; calmed or signalized intersections; and boulevard plantings and street trees.

Figure 5-3: STREETSCAPE IMPROVEMENT PLAN



- d. **Multi-Use Gateway Corridors** should serve as connections between Marcy-Holmes and other neighborhoods, and should serve pedestrians, private vehicles and transit.
- Multi-Use Gateway Corridor designation applies to 15th Avenue.
 - Multi-Use Gateway Corridors should include unique neighborhood elements, such as public art, variety in pavement, and other streetscape elements; calmed or signalized intersections; street trees; and traffic calming measures such as medians and boulevard plantings.
- e. **Local Streets** are designed both as automobile and pedestrian spaces. They constitute the great majority of the pedestrian and bicycle transportation network, as well as allowing vehicular connections to individual residences and providing parking.
- All streets in the neighborhood not otherwise designated are considered to be local streets.
 - Local streets should include, at a minimum, sidewalks and street trees.

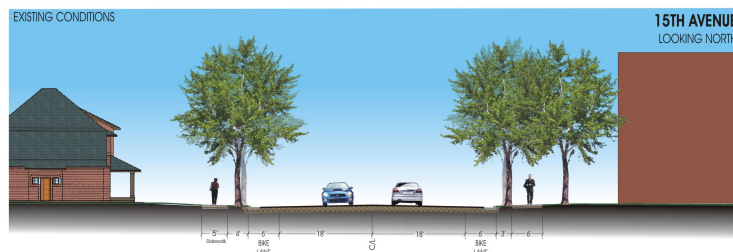
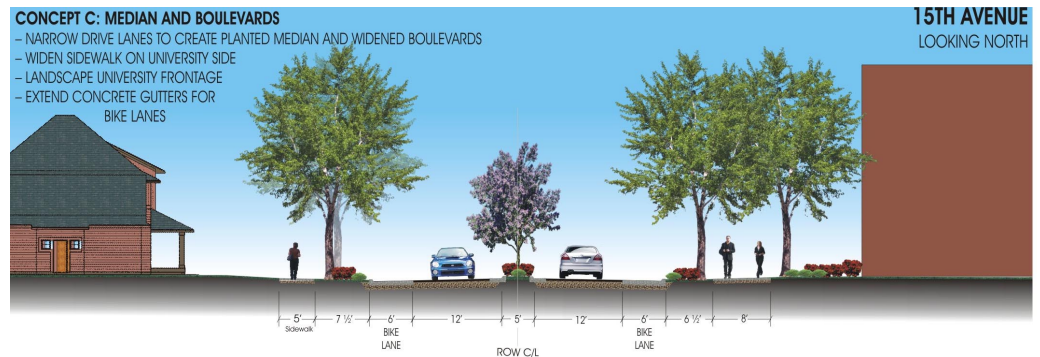
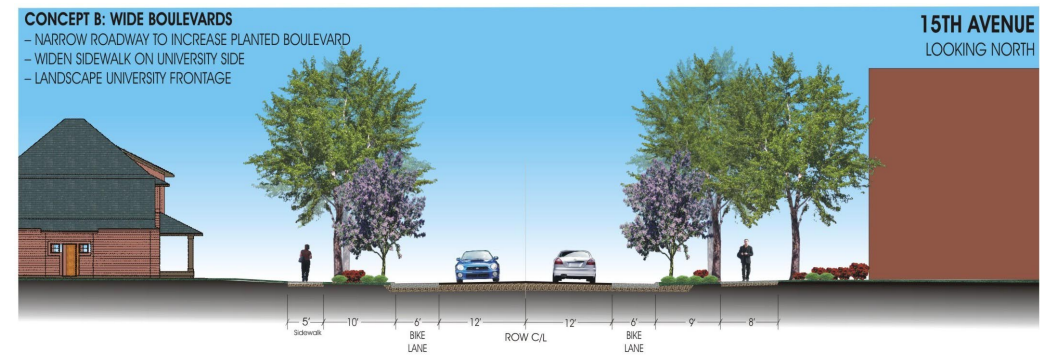
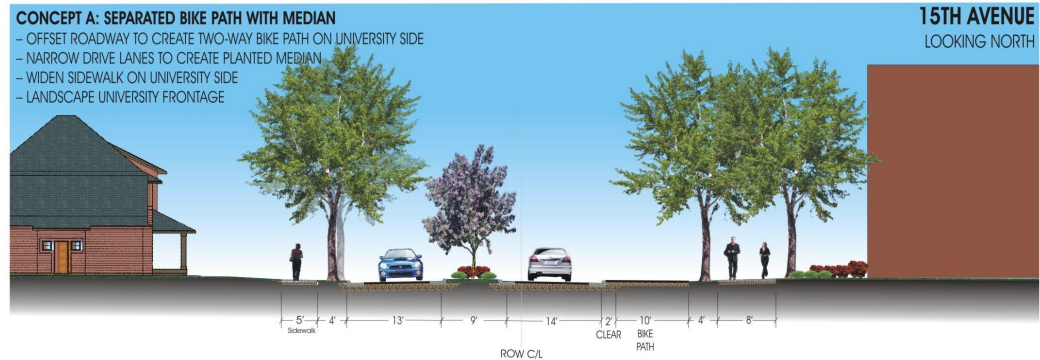


Figure 5-4: 15TH AVENUE RECONSTRUCTION OPTIONS



2. The neighborhood should work with the City and business owners to improve certain nodes of high pedestrian use.
 - a. Improvements may include traffic calming measures; traffic and pedestrian signals; additional street tree and boulevard plantings; and streetscape elements such as public art, pedestrian-scale lighting, and variety in pavement.
 - b. Pedestrian improvements should, at a minimum, be applied to the following locations:
 - i. 6th Avenue at University Avenue
 - ii. The 15th Avenue pedestrian underpass under the railroad tracks
 - iii. University Avenue and 4th Street at Central Avenue
 - iv. 8th Street at 7th Avenue (the 8th Street Market site)
 - v. The neighborhood commercial on 4th Street near 8th Avenue
 - vi. The 14th Avenue pedestrian bridge over the railroad tracks
3. The neighborhood should work with the City to improve pedestrian and bicycle connections across all vehicular bridges, particularly those that cross I-35W.

Mississippi River

Objective: Preservation of the Mississippi River, the river's edge, and accessibility.

Policies:

1. In general, Minneapolis' Critical Area Plan should be followed. The neighborhood supports it.

2. The paths at Father Hennepin Bluffs need improvement.
3. Hennepin Island access should be improved all the way to the edge of the falls while maintaining security for the U of M research facility and Xcel Energy operations. Safety of the general public must also be considered. Hennepin Island planning has been combined with the Whitewater Park development under the direction of the DNR and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.
4. The neighborhood supports the Whitewater Park concept.
5. The neighborhood supports the inclusion of the missing river road link between Main Street and East River Road in the Grand Rounds National Scenic Byway.
6. The neighborhood is in favor of public acquisition of the triangular piece of land owned by Lupe Development at 6th Avenue and Main Street. This should be a public transition space from the activity node at 6th Avenue and the Stone Arch Bridge to the bike trail to Dinkytown and the U of M campus.
7. The neighborhood supports the eventual reconnection of the neighborhood to the river by opening closed extensions of 4th Avenue, 5th Avenue, 7th Avenue, and 8th Avenue between Second Street and Main Street if and when redevelopment of the adjacent properties occurs.
8. The neighborhood encourages improvement of the Mississippi River watershed through innovative methods to reduce impermeable surface, particularly in parking lots.